

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

June 9, 1962

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM 161

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of the Treasury
The Secretary of Commerce
The Attorney General
The Director of Central Intelligence ✓
Military Representative of the President
Administrator, Federal Aviation Agency
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED

SUBJECT: U. S. Internal Security Programs

1. In line with my continuing effort to give primary responsibility for the initiative on major matters of policy and administration in a given field to a key member of my Administration, I will look to the Attorney General to take the initiative in the government in ensuring the development of plans, programs, and action proposals to protect the internal security of the United States. I will expect him to prepare recommendations, in collaboration with other departments and agencies in the government having the responsibility for internal security programs, with respect to those matters requiring Presidential action.

1 copy given Gen. Thomas,
Air Force member of OSIB,
on 22 May 1963. CONFIDENTIAL

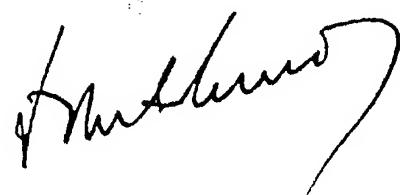
JZ (EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE 161-11)

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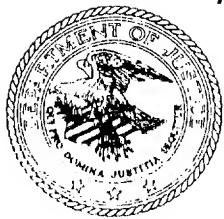
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2. Accordingly, I have directed that the two inter-departmental committees concerned with internal security--the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC) and the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS)--which have been under the supervision of the National Security Council, will be transferred to the supervision of the Attorney General. The continuing need for these committees and their relationship to the Attorney General will be matters for the Attorney General to determine.



cc: J. Edgar Hoover, Chairman Interdepartmental
Intelligence Conference
John F. Doherty, Chairman Interdepartmental
Committee on Internal Security
A. Russell Ash, NSC Staff

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Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

August 17, 1962

MEMORANDUM TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:

Pursuant to National Security Action Memorandum 161, dated June 9, 1962 from the President, The Attorney General has been given primary responsibility for taking the initiative in the Government in ensuring the development of plans, programs, and action proposals to protect the internal security of the United States. His office has also been given supervision of the two interdepartmental committees concerned with internal security--the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC) and the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS)--which have been under the supervision of the National Security Council.

There is certainly a continuing need for the IIC and ICIS. The functions and responsibilities of these two interdepartmental committees will be as defined in their charters issued by the NSC on July 18, 1949 (amended September 10, 1954; see NSC 5425/1) and approved by the President. I would like their organizations and procedures to continue unchanged, except that their reports or recommendations heretofore directed to the National Security Council will now be directed to me as Attorney General. It is anticipated that problems and proposals under consideration in the committees will continue to require the scheduling of meetings and the time of departmental staffs, as has been the case in the past.

I trust that all departments and agencies will continue to cooperate with the chairmen of the two committees as they have in the past to assure the competent and expeditious handling of the committees' business.


Robert F. Kennedy
Attorney General